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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/036,132	12/28/2001	Philip A. Streifer	6467-01	3416

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EXAMINER	
LEWIS, CHERYL RENEA	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2177	5

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/036,132	STREIFER, PHILIP A.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Cheryl Lewis	2177	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *28 December 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *28 December 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *4*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-19 are presented for examination.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

2. The information disclosure statements filed on December 28, 2001, paper no. 4, complies with the provisions of MPEP § 609. They have been placed in the application file, and the information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

DRAWINGS

3. The applicant's drawings filed on December 28, 2001 have been approved by the draftsperson.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* **v.** *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.

2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett et al. (Pat. No. 5,615,367 filed May 25, 1993, hereinafter Bennett) and Kilgore (Pat. No. 6,643,493 B2 filed July 19, 2001).

6. Regarding Claim 1, Bennett teaches a system and method including automatic linking of tables for improved relational database modeling with interface.

The method and associated for a system and method including automatic linking of tables for improved relational database modeling with interface as taught or suggested by Bennett includes:

a plurality of tables (Abstract, lines 2-15, '...which link together different tables (so that information stored in separate tables appears to the user to come from one place)...linking tables to be placed in a data model...') stored on the storage device (figure 1, elements 101, 102, 107 and 111); each table having a plurality of records (col. 6, lines 3-4 and 15-16, col. 7, lines 4-8 and 17-20) containing at least one entry field for storing data (col. 9, lines 46-62, col. 10, lines 24-39) the plurality of tables includes a master table (col. 6, lines 46-46, 49-50, 53-57, and 66-67) which contains records (col. 6, lines 58-65) corresponding to each of entry fields having last name (col. 9, lines 12-20, col. 10, 43-56) and first name (col. 9, lines 12-20, col. 10, 43-56); and a plurality of tables of related data tables linked to the master table wherein each record therein contains a field (col. 14, lines 6-21, col. 17, lines 1-13).

Bennett teaches a unique identifier (col. 9, lines 18-20), however Bennett does not teach a unique identifier corresponding to each student and an unique identifier corresponding to each student in a table.

Kilgore teaches a unique identifier corresponding to each student (col. 4, lines 15-20) and an unique identifier corresponding to each student in a table (col. 4, lines 15-27).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the data tables of Bennett's method with the data tables of Kilgore's method because Kilgore's data tables consist of sharing a key data element that is used to link the tables together, the data elements comprising relational SQL database records to store and report registration data and evaluation data of a student's performance (col. 3, lines 34-55).

7. Regarding Claim 2, Kilgore teaches a plurality of test results tables wherein each test results table represents a single standardized test event (col. 3, lines 23-27, col. 5, lines 28-44, col. 7, lines 23-36); and each test results table has a plurality of records for each standardized test result therein (col. 3, lines 23-27, col. 5, lines 28-44, col. 7, lines 23-36) containing fields having test results and a field having the unique identifier (col. 3, lines 23-27, col. 4, lines 66-67, col. 5, lines 28-44, col. 6, lines 56-67, col. 7, lines 23-36, col. 4, lines 15-27).

8. Regarding Claims 3, 9, 10, and 17, Bennett teaches a linking table wherein at least one of the related data tables are linked through the linking table which in turn is linked to the master table (col. 14, lines 6-21, col. 17, lines 1-13); wherein each of at

least one related data tables is linked through the linking table and each record therein has a field containing a corresponding concatenated identification code (col. 9, lines 12-29, col. 16, lines 20-50); and an intermediate linking table (col. 5, lines 3-13) wherein at least one of related data tables is linked through the intermediate linking table which in turn is linked to another related data table (col. 8, lines 64-67, col. 9, lines 1-30).

Kilgore teaches the unique identifier is a student identification code (col. 4, lines 15-27) and linking table has a record (col. 3, lines 33-40) with data fields corresponding to each student (col. 3, lines 56-67, col. 4, lines 1-65) and each record has fields containing the student identification code (col. 3, lines 56-67, col. 4, lines 1-65) and a concatenated identification code (col. 3, lines 56-67, col. 4, lines 1-65) corresponding to each student identification code (col. 3, lines 56-67, col. 4, lines 1-65).

9. Regarding Claims 4 and 12, Kilgore teaches a special student table having records for every student which contains a field for the unique identifier code and a field containing historical data of all entries into the database for every student for every year (col. 4, lines 28-38 and 53-61).

10. Regarding Claims 5 and 13, Kilgore teaches a status data table having at least one field indicating enrollment status for each year and a field (col. 4, lines 53-65) containing the unique identifier code (col. 4, lines 15-27).

11. Regarding Claims 6 and 14, Kilgore teaches a status data field for each record indicating enrollment status for each year (col. 4, lines 53-65).

12. Regarding Claims 7, 8, 15, 16, and 18, Bennett teaches a field having a primary no-duplication key which key operates to indicate that the table having a primary no-

duplication key will accept only unique new entries (Abstract, lines 10-13, col. 4, lines 1-12, col. 9, lines 45-67, col. 10, lines 1-11 and 42-67).

13. Regarding Claims 11 and 19, Bennett teaches a communications network (col. 2, lines 65-66).

CONCLUSION

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

A. Slider et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,505,031 B1) discloses a system and method for providing a virtual school environment;

B. Sanford (U.S. Pat. No. 6,688,891 B1) discloses a method and apparatus for an electronic collaborative education process model;

C. Sullivan et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,651,216 B1) discloses efficiently navigating a workbook linked to a database;

D. Hara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,675,160 B2) discloses a database processing method, apparatus for carrying out the same and medium storing processing program; and

E. Hopp et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,685,482 B2) discloses a method and system for creating and evaluating quizzes.

NAME OF CONTACT

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Lewis whose telephone number is (703) 305-8750. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

(703) 746-5651 (Use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal paper/amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions.).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Cheryl Lewis
Patent Examiner
March 29, 2004

JOHN BREENE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100